

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BUCAR 03807 061609Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 A-01 OPR-02 /050 W

----- 100475

O R 061425Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3988

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 3807

USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (GERALD FORD)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: P&C BUCHAREST ACTIVITIES

1. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE AND PRESS CORPS WERE GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEDIA COVERAGE OF PRESIDENTIAL VISIT. SUGGEST AGENCY QUERY WH PRESS OFFICE AND ADVISE ANY REACTIONS USEFUL TO US FOR PURPOSES OF OUR FOLLOW-UP HERE ON VISIT WITH MFA AND MEDIA OFFICIALS.
 2. DESPITE SOME INCIDENTS DUE TO ROMANIA'S GENERALLY RIGID INTERNAL SECURITY SYSTEM AND THE INEXPERIENCE OF THE MFA AND LOCAL MEDIA OFFICIALS IN DEALING WITH SUCH LARGE NUMBERS OF JOURNALISTS AS WERE HERE FOR THE VISIT, WE FEEL THAT WE ACHIEVED THE FOUR MAJOR GOALS WE SET TO MEET WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE REQUIREMENTS:
(A) TWO PRESS CENTERS WERE ESTABLISHED (BUCHAREST AND SINAIA) AND WORKED SMOOTHLY; (B) FOLLOWING PROTRACTED DISCUSSIONS, THE MFA AGREED TO SPLIT WITH US THE \$8,000 COST OF THE PRESS CENTERS AND HOSTED A LUNCHEON FOR WHITE HOUSE JOURNALISTS IN SINAIA; (C) THE WH PRESS CORPS WAS ASSISTED IN OBTAINING THE FULLEST COVERAGE POSSIBLE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF RIGIDLY CONTROLLED ACCESS. MOREOVER, IN TERMS OF OUR MORE "PAROCHIAL" INTERESTS, WE SUCCEEDED IN GAINING
- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BUCAR 03807 061609Z

EXTENSIVE ACCESS FOR OUR VOA CORRESPONDENTS AND ROP PHOTO-

GRAPHERS WHO WERE NOT ACCREDITED TO THE WH PRESS CORPS.

3. BOTH THE BUCHAREST AND SINAIA PRESS CENTERS DREW WHAT WE FEEL WAS VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS PRAISE FROM JOURNALISTS AND PRESS OFFICE STAFF. BUCHAREST PRESS CENTER ORGANIZED TO WH SPECIFICATIONS WITH OFFICE FOR PRESS SECRETARY, ETC.; COVERED ENTIRE FIRST FLOOR OF INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL; AND INCLUDED 20 TELEXES, 30 LONG-DISTANCE TELEPHONE LINES, AND TEN "HOT-LINES" FOR TV NETWORKS, ALL STAFFED FULL-TIME BY OPERATORS, REPAIRMEN AND INTERPRETERS FURNISHED BY THE MINISTRY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS. OUR COMMUNICATIONS SET-UP IN BUCHAREST WAS ONE OF LARGEST EVER DONE IN ROMANIA, ACCORDING TO GOR OFFICIALS, AND IT FUNCTIONED FLAWLESSLY THROUGHOUT VISIT. OVER 200 WH AND OTHER VISITING JOURNALISTS MADE EXTENSIVE USE OF THE CENTER. THE SINAIA PRESS CENTER WAS LOCATED IN OLD AND ELEGANT CASINO, AND WAS EQUIPPED WITH TEN LONG-DISTANCE TELEPHONE LINES AND SIX TELEXES, PLUS OPERATORS FOR EACH. APPROXIMATELY 120 JOURNALISTS TRAVELLED TO SINAIA FOR THE SUNDAY PROGRAM AND MANY USED THE PRESS CENTER. TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS FUNCTIONED SMOOTHLY.

4. OVER 300 PRESS KITS PREPARED BY POST AND PRINTED BY ROP VIENNA WERE SUPPLIED TO VISITING AND LOCAL MEDIA. PICTURE AND BIO OF PRESIDENT SENT TO LEADING BUCHAREST NEWSPAPERS WERE USED BY THEM IN AUGUST 2 EDITIONS (SEE MEDIA REACTION REPORTS). USIA FILM CLIPS ALSO EXTENSIVELY USED BY ROM TV IN ITS COVERAGE, WHICH WAS UNPRECEDENTLY HEAVY (SEE MEDIA REACTION REPORTS).

5. POOL COVERAGE WAS NECESSARY FOR MOST EVENTS BECAUSE GOR WOULD HAVE IT NO OTHER WAY. THIS UNDERSTANDABLY ANGERED WH PRESS OFFICE STAFF AND CORPS ALIKE, AND LED TO AT LEAST TWO "INCIDENTS". (A) AT THE COUNCIL OF STATE HEAD-TO-HEAD MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS, WH PRESS OFFICE SENT IN MORE JOURNALISTS THAN HAD BEEN AGREED TO BY WH PRESS ADVANCE, IO AND MFA PRESS OFFICIALS. GOR RESOLUTELY NOT PLEASED WITH WHAT HE CONSIDERED A BREACH OF FAITH, BUT THERE THANKFULLY WERE NO UNSEEMLY CONFRONTATIONS CAUSED BY THE LARGER NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS. (B) GOR RECIPROCATED IN ITS OWN WAY NEXT DAY BY INFORMING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BUCHAR 03807 061609Z

WH PRESS POOL ESCORT ONLY MINUTES BEFORE EVENT THAT, CONTRARY TO EARLIER AGREEMENT, ONLY FOUR - INSTEAD OF 20 - JOURNALISTS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO COVER OFFICIAL LUNCHEON AT PELES CASTLE. AFTER A BRIEF AND AT TIMES HEATED EXCHANGE, ROMANIAN PRESS AND SECURITY OFFICIALS CAVED IN AND FULL AMERICAN PRESS CONTINGENT ENTERED. INCIDENTS SUCH AS LATTER ONE, HOWEVER, LED TO UNHAPPINESS ON PART OF SOME WH PRESS CORPS WITH WHAT THEY FELT WERE UNREASONABLY

TIGHT ROMANIAN SECURITY RESTRICTIONS ON PRESS COVERAGE DURING VISIT, A COMPLAINT WHICH WAS REGISTERED BY WH PRESS OFFICE AND INCLUDED IN ITS OWN REPORT OF VISIT. THE GREATEST PROBLEM OF THE VISIT WAS IN A SENSE CONCEPTUAL, AND STEMMED FROM MFA PRESS DIRECTORATE AND GOR SECURITY OFFICIALS' FAILURE TO APPRECIATE EITHER IMMENSITY OF PREPARATIONS REQUIRED TO ENSURE SMOOTH VISIT (DESPITE OUR REPEATED AND SOMETIMES DESPERATE WARNINGS) OR POTENTIAL GAIN TO BE HAD BY FACILITATING AMERICAN PRESS CORPS ACCESS. THE MFA PRESS AND CULUTRE DIRECTORATE ONLY BEGAN TO TAKE VITAL STEPS TO MAKE PRESS ARRANGEMENTS WORKABLE LESS THAN 24 HOURS BEFORE VISIT BEGAN; ONLY A TOTAL MOBILIZATION OF THE DIRECTORATE'S HUMAN RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE CHIEF HIMSELF, PREVENTED EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE MFA AND GOR.

6. POST APPRECIATES IEU AND ROP BACKSTOPPING FOR VISIT. ALL TDYERS (STEVE DACHI, TOM DOVE, BARBARA ESCHAM AND DOROTHY BENNATCH) MADE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR EFFORTS; PAL WISHES TO SINGLE OUT MIKE HOFFMANN FOR HIS WORK, WHICH DEMONSTRATED VALUE OF HAVING AN EXPERIENCED AGENCY OFFICER AVAILABLE TO HELP RELATE USIS RESOURCES AND EFFORTS IN THE FIELD TO WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE REQUIREMENTS DURING PRESIDENTIAL VISITS.
BARNES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUCHAR03807
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750271-0577
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750875/aaaacnxi.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: P&C BUCHAREST ACTIVITIES
TAGS: OVIP, RO, (FORD, GERALD R)
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006